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1. (Amended) A television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

means for providing an option for a user to create a preference profile that is indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

means for displaying a hot list of programs based on the preference profile on the user television equipment, wherein the hot list of programs includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

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2. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to create the preference profile further comprises:

means for providing an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

means for providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

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8. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 wherein at least two of the preference profiles are active, and wherein the means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the at least two preference profiles further comprises means for indicating which of the programs in the hot list of programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

12. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 wherein the means for displaying the hot list of programs further comprises means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the multiple profiles.

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13. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the multiple profiles.

14. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to tune to a selected program, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the

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com 10 . preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

a4 19. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

a5 28. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an option for displaying the hot list a short time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list and for adjusting this time.

29. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for displaying the hot list further comprises means for providing the hot list sorted by start time.

30. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for displaying

the hot list further comprises means for displaying the hot list sorted by channel.

31. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 28 wherein the means for displaying the hot list further comprises means for displaying the hot list sorted by priority.

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32. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the means for displaying the hot list sorted by priority further comprises means for displaying the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

33. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

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38. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 36 further comprising means for automatically modifying a preference profile based on which programs are watched by the user.

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42. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 41 wherein the means for providing the personal identification number setup screen further comprises means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile.

45. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

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means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

46. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen,

wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

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47. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

48. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

49. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

51. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option

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of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

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54. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

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56. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

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63. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

64. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

65. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

66. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

67. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

68. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference

attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

69. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

70. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

71. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

72. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

73. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

74. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

75. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

76. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

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77. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

78. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

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86. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the system further comprising means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the master profile.

87. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television

viewing preferences, the means for displaying the hot list of programs further comprising means for displaying the hot list of programs based on selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

88. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

89. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

90. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

91. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for providing an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles;

means for providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

means for providing access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.

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